ABSTRACT

A low-dispersion optical fiber provides both reduced chromatic dispersion in a used wavelength band and increased effective core area. The low-dispersion optical fiber is made by covering a center core (1) with a first side core (2), covering the first side core (2) with a second side core (3), and covering the second side core (3) with a cladding (5). When the maximum refractive index of the center core (1) is written n1, the minimum refractive index of the first side core (2) is written n2, the maximum refractive index of the second side core (3) is written n3 and the refractive index of the cladding (5) is written nc, then n1>n3>nc>n2 is satisfied. Relative refractive index differences $\Delta 1$, $\Delta 2$ and $\Delta 3$ with respect to the cladding (5) of the maximum refractive index of the center core (1), the minimum refractive index of the first side core (2) and the maximum refractive index of the second side core (3) respectively are made $0.4\% \leq \Delta 1 \leq 0.7\%$, $-0.30\% \leq \Delta 2 \leq -0.05\%$ and $0.2\% \leq \Delta 3$.